

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 18-20, 23, 26-29 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 30 and 31 and add new Claims 39-42 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image ~~having associated opacity component values~~;

compositing ~~the colour and opacity component values of said at least one graphical object having object color and object capacity, with the colour and opacity component values of said an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and~~

compositing said the object opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one the additional opacity channel to ~~produce~~ create an altered updated opacity channel, ~~said altered the updated~~ opacity channel ~~thereby~~ representing the opacity component values associated with said an amount of the image color remaining in said

~~the composite image following composition~~ the compositing of the at least one graphical object
with said ~~the image~~ colour and opacity components of said at least one object.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of ~~utilising said altered~~ utilizing the updated opacity channel to remove the image color colour and image opacity component values of said image remaining in said ~~the composite~~ image following composition with said ~~the object color~~ colour and object opacity component values of said at least one object.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of ~~utilising said altered~~ utilizing the updated opacity channel to composite the object color colour and object opacity component values of said at least one object with the image color colour and image opacity component values of said image.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said ~~the~~ at least one object is one object of a grouped plurality of objects.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of applying a group effect to the grouped plurality of objects.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of compositing object color colour and object opacity component values of each object of

said ~~the~~ grouped plurality of objects with the image color ~~colour~~ and image opacity ~~component~~ values of said image.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of inverting said ~~the~~ opacity values of said ~~altered~~ the updated opacity channel.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of copying said ~~the~~ image to form an image copy.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of compositing the object color ~~colour~~ and object opacity ~~component~~ values of said ~~at least one object~~ with ~~colour~~ color and opacity component values of said ~~the~~ image copy.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said ~~altered~~ the updated opacity channel represents opacity component values associated with said ~~the~~ image copy remaining in said ~~the~~ image copy following composition of said ~~colour~~ the object color and object opacity ~~component~~ values of said ~~at least one object~~ with said ~~colour~~ the color and opacity component values of said ~~the~~ image copy.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of ~~utilising~~ said ~~altered~~ utilizing the updated opacity channel to remove the ~~colour~~ color and opacity component values of said ~~the~~ image copy remaining in said ~~the~~ image copy following

composition of ~~said colour~~ the object color and object opacity ~~component values of said at least one object~~ with ~~said colour~~ the color and opacity component values of ~~said~~ the image copy.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of ~~utilising said altered~~ utilizing the updated opacity channel to composite the object color ~~colour~~ and object opacity ~~component values of said at least one object~~ with the image color ~~colour~~ and image opacity ~~component values of said image~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said associated~~ the object color ~~colour~~ and object opacity ~~component values of said object~~ are accessed from an image file.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said associated~~ the image color ~~colour~~ and image opacity ~~component values of said image~~ are accessed from an image file.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image ~~having associated opacity component values~~;

compositing ~~the colour and opacity component values of said at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with the colour and opacity component values of said an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;~~

compositing said ~~the object~~ opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one ~~the additional~~ opacity channel to ~~produce~~ create an altered updated opacity channel, the updated opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image; and

~~utilising said altered~~ utilizing the updated opacity channel to remove the remaining image color ~~colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said the composite image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of ~~utilising said altered~~ utilizing the updated opacity channel to composite the object color ~~colour and object~~ opacity component values of said at least one object with the image color ~~colour and image~~ opacity component values of said image.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 15 or 16, wherein ~~said~~ the at least one object is one object of a grouped plurality of objects.

18. to 20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said apparatus~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image ~~having associated opacity component values;~~

means for compositing ~~the colour and opacity component values of said at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with the colour and opacity component values of said an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and~~

means for compositing ~~said the object opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one~~ said additional opacity channel to ~~produce~~ create an ~~altered~~ updated opacity channel, said ~~altered~~ updated opacity channel ~~thereby representing the opacity component values associated with said~~ an amount of the image color remaining in said

~~the composite image following composition said compositing of the at least one graphical object with said the image colour and opacity components of said at least one object.~~

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

~~means for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image having associated opacity component values;~~

~~means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with the colour and opacity component values of said an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;~~

~~means for compositing said the object opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one said additional opacity channel to produce create an altered updated opacity channel, said updated opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image,[[;]] and utilising utilizing said altered updated opacity channel to remove the remaining image color colour and opacity component values of said image~~

remaining in said the composite image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing data and a computer program; and

a processor coupled to said memory for executing said computer program, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel ~~having associated opacity component values~~ for use in creating the composite image;

code for compositing ~~the colour and opacity component values of said at least one graphical object with the colour having object color and object opacity, with an component values of said image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity~~; and

code for compositing said the object opacity ~~component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one~~ said additional opacity channel to ~~produce~~ create

an ~~altered~~ updated opacity channel, said ~~altered~~ updated opacity channel ~~thereby~~ representing the opacity component values associated with said an amount of the image color remaining in said the composite image following composition the compositing of the at least one graphical object with said the image colour and opacity components of said at least one object.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing data and a computer program; and

a processor coupled to said memory for executing said computer program, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel ~~having associated~~ for use in creating the composite image opacity component values;

code for compositing ~~the colour and opacity component values of said at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with the colour and opacity component values of said an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity~~;

code for compositing said the object opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one the additional opacity channel to ~~produce~~ create an

~~altered~~ updated opacity channel, the updated opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the original image; and

code for ~~utilising~~ utilizing said ~~altered~~ updated opacity channel to remove the remaining image color ~~colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said the composite image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said~~ at least one object.

26. to 29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product having a computer readable~~ storage medium having a computer program recorded therein for ~~compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said computer program ~~product~~ comprising:

~~computer program code means for generating at least one~~ additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image ~~having associated opacity component values;~~

~~computer program code means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one~~ graphical object having object color and object opacity, with the colour and opacity component values of said an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being

derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and

~~computer program code means for compositing said~~ the object opacity component values of said ~~at least one object~~ with that of said ~~at least one~~ the additional opacity channel to ~~produce~~ create an ~~altered~~ updated opacity channel, ~~said altered~~ the updated opacity channel ~~thereby representing the opacity component values associated with said~~ an amount of the image color remaining in ~~said~~ the composite image following ~~composition~~ the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image said colour and opacity components of said ~~at least one object~~.

31. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product having a computer readable~~ storage medium having a computer program recorded therein for ~~compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values~~ representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said computer program ~~product~~ comprising:

~~computer program code means for generating at least one~~ additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image ~~having associated opacity component values;~~

~~computer program code means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one~~ graphical object having object color and object opacity, with the colour and opacity component values of said an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being

derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;

~~computer program code means for compositing said~~ the object opacity component values of said ~~at least one object~~ with that of said ~~at least one~~ the additional opacity channel to ~~produce~~ create an ~~altered~~ updated opacity channel, the updated opacity channel representing an amount of the original image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image; and

~~computer program code means for utilising said altered~~ utilizing the updated opacity channel to remove the remaining image color ~~colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in the composite image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.~~

32. to 38. (Cancelled).

39. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the further opacity channel is initially set to fully opaque.

40. (New) The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of compositing the composite image with the image using a group opacity.

41. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the further opacity channel is initially set to fully opaque.

42. (New) The method according to claim 35, further comprising the step of compositing the composite image with the image using a group opacity.